Cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

2864. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Central hor-tricultural experts, cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants as inter-crops not only supplements the income of the farmers, but also help in boosting exports and meeting the ever growing domestic demand;

(b) whether due to the expansion of area under food and commercial crops, there has been a considerable depletion-of harbal wealth;

(c) whether many of the herbs are in the process of becoming extinct;

(d) if so, whether in view of the present day shift towards the Indian sys tems of medicine and in this context of 'back to nature' health care any plan has been made by Government to preserve the valuable medicinal and aromatic plants and their cultivation developed in order to meet the demand of industries and export;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme for Development of medicinal and aromatic plants in the VIII Plan with an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crores, to conserve herbal wealth in different agro-climatic zones through establishing herbal gardens, nurseries for multiplication and distribution of planting material, demonstration-cum-seed production, plots, etc.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also implementing a scheme since 1990-91 for cultivation of medicinal plants financing Government and autonomous institutions. Under the scheme extinct medicinal plants and the plants of daily requirement are selected for cultivation.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is providing a strong Research support through its. "All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants" operating at 9 centres in different State Agriculture Universities. This Project is involved in developing new varieties and improved production techniques and their dissemination.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Re-search is also providing considerable support for R and D activities of these plants through Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, Lucknow & Regional Research Laboratories at Jammu,Jor hat and Bhuvaneshwar.

Agri-Expo Exhibition

2865. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies which participated in the Agri-Expo Exhibition recently concluded in Delhi;

(b) the number of Indian companies which participated in the same;

(c) the number of persons who visited the exhibition; and

(d) the amount of expenditure on the Exhibition alongwith the outcome of the Exhibition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Forty one foreign companies from four countries, i.e. Israel, Nepal Nethher-lanrjs and the U.S.A. participated.

(b) One Hundred and Fifty Indian Companies participated in the Fair-

.' (c) About Ten Lakh persons visited , the exhibition.

(d) Final figures of actual expenditure are awaited from different agencies. The anticipated expenditure is Rs. 442.02 lakh (Rupees four hundred and forty two lakh and two thousand only).

Awareness was created among farmers, extention workers, agricultural scientists and entrepreneurs from India and abroad about the advances made in the/ country and the projections for 2000 A.D. and the export potential for agricultural products.

Total Value of Agricultural produce

2866. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRI-CULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) total value of agricultural produce during the last three years;

(b) the details of product specific ag-gregate measurement of support on 17 crops for the last three years; and

(c) which crops are still subjected to restrictions on processing and world marketing; the reasons therefor?

T MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total value of output from agriculture (at current prices) during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Value of Agricultural Output (Rs. in crore)
1991-92	149881
1992-93	165395
1993-94	182250

(b) Product Specific Support were compiled by Ministry of Commerce for the GATT relevant period and are not available for the last three years.

(c) No crop is having restriction on processing. However dal-milling, rice-milling, oil-milling in respect of rapese-ed, mustard seed, sesame seed and groundnut (except solvent extraction industries and State Agro Corporations and State Growers Cooperatives) are reserved for small scale sector and processing of sugarcane into sugar is covered under industrial licensing in terms of current policy. The export is governed by Exim Policy 1994-95, however, export of wheat and coarse grains, i-e-jowar, bajra, maize, ragi and barley is allowed subject to issuance of registra-tion-cunvallocation certificat by Agri cultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. Government has laid down quantitative ceiling for 1994-95 on export of wheat and coarse grains as under.

Wheat durum — 3 lakh tonnes

Whheat non-durum — 5 lakh tonnes

Coarse Grains —1.5 lakh tonnes

Soil Erosion

2867. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under taken any survey to ascertain the total loss of soil due to wind, water and natural calamities in 19194-95 or so (State-wise) particularly in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what effective steps Gov-ernment propose to take or have taken so far to conserve the soil erosion in the country, together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Tndian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) halve made estimates of soil loss due to water erosion in the country which is estimated to be 5334 million tonnes annually. The estimates have been made according to the land resources regions. Region-wise details are in statement *(See* below). The area affected due to